CLAIMS:

1. A digital camera, comprising:

an imaging device driven by at least two kinds of drive modes;

an image display device having a number of pixels less than a number of pixels of the imaging device; and

an enlarging display setting device configured to enlarge a part of an area of a whole image obtained by the imaging device at a desired enlargement ratio and to display an enlarged image on the image display device,

wherein one of the at least two kinds of drive modes for driving the imaging device is selected such that a resolution of the part of the area of the whole image to be enlarged is greater than a resolution of the image display device.

2. The digital camera according to claim 1, further comprising:

an enlarging display position designating device configured to designate a desired position in an image displayed on the image display device, wherein the image displayed on the image display device is enlarged around the position designated by the enlarging display position designating device.

3. The digital camera according to claim 2, further comprising:

a timing generator configured to generate clock signals to drive the imaging device; and

a clock generator configured to change clock signals input to the timing generator to any desired frequency.

4. The digital camera according to claim 3, wherein when the selected drive mode is changed, a refresh rate of an image output from one frame of the imaging device is prevented from changing by changing a clock frequency output from the clock generator.

5. The digital camera according to claim 4, wherein when the clock frequency output from the clock generator is changed, an exposure amount is prevented from changing by changing a number of electronic shutter pulses output to the imaging device.

6. The digital camera according to claim 4, wherein even when the clock frequency output from the clock generator is changed, an exposure amount is prevented from changing by keeping a pulse interval between electronic shutter pulses output to the imaging device.

7. The digital camera according to claim 1, wherein the digital camera has a manual focus function, and when the manual focus function is performed, an enlarged image is displayed on the image display device one of automatically and in accordance with an instruction to the enlarging display setting device.

8. The digital camera according to claim 1, further comprising:

a release button used for performing a shutter release operation for photographing, wherein the digital camera has an auto focus function and performs the shutter release operation while depressing the release button stepwise, and wherein when the release button is depressed at a first step, an auto focus function is performed and an enlarged image is displayed on the image display device.

9. The digital camera according to claim 1, further comprising:

a release button used for performing a shutter release operation for photographing, wherein when the release button is depressed for photographing, a whole image is recorded even though an enlarged image is displayed on the image display device.

10. The digital camera according to claim 1, wherein even though a first enlargement instruction is input to the enlarging display setting device, a maximum enlarged image is displayed on the image display device under the condition that the selected drive mode is not changed.

11. The digital camera according to claim 10, wherein when a second enlargement instruction is input to the enlarging display setting device, the selected drive mode is changed to another one of the at least two kinds of drive modes.

12. The digital camera according to claim 1, when an enlargement instruction is input to the enlarging display setting device for a predetermined period of time or more, the selected drive mode is changed to another one of the at least two kinds of drive modes.

13. The digital camera according to claim 4, further comprising:

a switch configured to switch a setting if the clock frequency output from the clock generator is changed or not when the selected drive mode is changed.

14. The digital camera according to claim 13, further comprising:

a power supply capacity checking device configured to check and detect a capacity of a power supply, wherein when the power supply capacity checking device detects that the capacity of the power supply is less than a predetermined value, the clock frequency output from the clock generator is not increased regardless of whether the switch switches the setting or not.

15. The digital camera according to claim 1, wherein the at least two kinds of drive modes include a draft mode and a frame mode, and wherein overall pixels of the imaging device are read out by dividing a frame of the imaging device into three fields in the frame mode.

16. The digital camera according to claim 15, wherein image data to be enlarged and displayed on the image display device by the frame mode is taken in from image data in one field out of the three fields of the imaging device.

17. The digital camera according to claim 15, wherein image data to be enlarged and displayed on the image display device by the frame mode is taken in from image data in the three fields of the imaging device.

18. The digital camera according to claim 17, wherein the digital camera performs a focus operation, and the image data taken in from the image data in the three fields of the imaging device is enlarged and displayed as a still image for a predetermined period of time when the focus operation is completed.

19. The digital camera according to claim 18, wherein the image data taken in from the image data in the three fields of the imaging device is enlarged and displayed at a maximum enlargement ratio when there is no particular instruction for an enlargement ratio.

20. The digital camera according to claim 19, wherein the image data taken in from the image data in the three fields of the imaging device is enlarged and displayed as an enlarged image, and the enlarged image is changed while gradually decreasing an enlargement ratio in accordance with an instruction.

21. The digital camera according to claim 20, wherein a display of the enlarged image is selected as an option.

22. A digital camera, comprising:

an imaging device driven by at least two kinds of drive modes;

an image display device having a number of pixels less than a number of pixels of the imaging device; and

means for enlarging a part of an area of a whole image obtained by the imaging device at a desired enlargement ratio and for displaying an enlarged image on the image display device,

wherein one of the at least two kinds of drive modes for driving the imaging device is selected such that a resolution of the part of the area of the whole image to be enlarged is greater than a resolution of the image display device.

23. The digital camera according to claim 22, further comprising:

means for designating a desired position in an image displayed on the image display device, wherein the image displayed on the image display device is enlarged around the position designated by the means for designating.

24. The digital camera according to claim 23, further comprising:

means for generating clock signals to drive the imaging device; and

means for changing clock signals input to the means for generating clock signals to a predetermined frequency.

25. The digital camera according to claim 24, wherein when the selected drive mode is changed, a refresh rate of an image output from one frame of the imaging device is prevented from changing by changing a clock frequency output from the means for changing clock signals.

26. The digital camera according to claim 25, further comprising:

switching means for switching a setting if the clock frequency output from the means for changing clock signals is changed or not when the selected drive mode is changed.

27. The digital camera according to claim 26, further comprising:

means for checking and detecting a capacity of a power supply, wherein when the means for checking and detecting detects that the capacity of the power supply is less than a predetermined value, the clock frequency output from the means for changing clock signals is not increased regardless of whether the switching means switches the setting or not.